

I claim:

1. An information processing apparatus located in a separate site from a sender and a remote site, said apparatus being connected to a local display device for displaying information to a user, said remote site containing a first set of digital data and being in communication with said apparatus, said sender sending a second set of digital data for processing by said apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

10 a receiver that receives said second set of digital data, said second set of digital data comprising a first set of displayable data; a second set of displayable data; a first set of non-displayable data for indicating a presence of said second set of displayable data; and a first linkage reference associated with said second set of displayable data and said first set of digital data, said first linkage reference being not displayable on said display device;

15 a timing device that causes said receiver to receive said second set of digital data at predetermined times;

means for displaying said first set of displayable data in a first way on said display device and said second set of displayable data in a second way on said display device, said second way indicating to said user that said second set of displayable data is selectable;

an input device that allows a user to select said second set of displayable data; and

20 means for extracting said first linkage reference to obtain an extracted first linkage reference for sending to said remote site if said second set of displayable set of displayable data is selected.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second set of digital data comprises video data.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and said second sets of digital data is encrypted, and said apparatus further comprising means for decrypting said encrypted digital data.

5

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second set of digital data further comprises at least one formatting code and a second set of non-displayable data for indicating a presence of said first linkage reference.

10

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second set of digital data comprises electronic mail.

15

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sender sending said second set of digital data using radio frequency signals, and wherein said receiver further comprises a data interface for retrieving said second set of digital data from said radio frequency signals.

20

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said second set of digital data further comprises at least one formatting code and a second set of non-displayable data for indicating a presence of said first linkage reference.

25

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said radio frequency signals are television frequency signals.

9. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said second set of digital data comprises video data.

10. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said second set of digital data comprises electronic mail.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said remote site contains a third set of digital data, and wherein said first set of digital data comprises a second linkage reference associated with said third set of digital data.

5

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said second set of digital data further comprises at least one formatting code and a second set of non-displayable data for indicating a presence of said first linkage reference.

10

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said second set of digital data comprises video data.

15

14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said sender sending said second set of digital data using radio frequency signals, and wherein said receiver further comprises a data interface for retrieving said second set of digital data from said radio frequency signals.

20

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said radio frequency signals are television frequency signals.